or probed ISI role in Andhra riots recently in Hydrabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken to identify the causes of the riots?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) As a sequal to the surfacing of a pamphelet derogatory to Islam, communal riots broke out in the old city of Hyderabad on 5th and 6th June, 1998. The city police is probing into various aspects of the origin of this mischievous pamphlet. Several fundamentalist organisations have been throughly questioned about the circulation of the pamphlet. The role of ISI is also being investigated.

Crimes in Uttar Pradesh

2324. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item published in Ganashakti, dated 13th June, 1998 regarding a circular issued by SSP, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to allay the apprehension of tourists to this historic place;

(c) whether there have been 2905 murders and 531 cases of rape in Uttar Pradesh from January, 1998 to 15th May, 1998, as reported;

(d) if not, the actual figures as per the State Government;

(e) whether any team from the Home Ministry is visiting Uttar Pradesh to asses law and order situation; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario in the country is an ongoing process in the Central Government, keeping in view its constitutional obligations. In the process of discharging these obligations, the Central Government also interacts with State Governments. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to depute any team to Uttar Pradesh.

Armed Forces Act, 1958

2325. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has started a detailed examination of the controversial Armed Forces Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has received several complaints against certain provision of this Act;

(d) if so, the time by which the Commission is likely to give its report containing the recommendations; and

(e) the State-wise complaints received by the Commission so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) In the context of complaints received by the National Human Rights Commission on the operation of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, and a case pending in the Supreme Court on the subject, the Commission impleaded itself as a party in the Supreme Court and has placed its views on the various provisions of the Act before the Court.

(c) The Commission had received allegations of atrocities and high handedness of Armed Forces, Para-Military Forces expecially in the North-Eastern States and J&K. In some of these complaints, requests for the repeal of the said Act have been made.

(d) The Commission hass undertaken to formulate guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court to temper the rigour of the provisions of the Act and it will take some time to finalise the guidelines.

(e) The Complaints received by the Commission are 10 and 36 in respect of Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir respectively.

Multi-Purpose Identity Cards

2326. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Multi-purpose Identity Cards for all citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the time by which such cards are likely to be introduced;

(c) the extent to which such a move will minimise infiltrators and illegal occupants not only in border areas but in other areas of the country; and

(d) the other benefits of introduction of Multi-purpose Identity Cards?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) There is proposal to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above. Persons below 14 years are to be compulsorily registered under Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969. The names of such persons are to be included in their father's/mother's cards. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. its implementation will be taken up after a Central Legislation for this purpose has been enacted. The multipurpose National Identity Cards will help substandially in checking illegal immigration and infiltration and in tracing of criminals and subversives, specially in the border areas of the country. These Cards will also be used for the purposes of Issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings.

Economic blockade in Manipur

2327. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 24 days' economic blockade by United Naga Council of Manipur has seriously affected life and entire system of Manipur;

(b) whether the supply of essential commodities has stopped and prices of all items have gone up; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restore normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 32 days economic blockade by the United Naga Council of Manipur from May 23, 1998 to June 23, 1998 seriously affected the availability of essential commodities in Manipur leading to a sharp increase in prices.

(c) Government of Manipur was advised to ensure that the blockade is lifted immediately. Essential commodities were brought to Manipur under heavy escort. Army and para-military forces provided necessary assistance in this regard. Simultaneously, Government of Manipur conducted negotiations with the United Naga Council which led to signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and suspension of the blockade with effect from June 24, 1998.

Spurt in Insurgency in NE States

2328. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether activities of insurgents have increased in the recent past in North Eastern States;